



## OVERSIGHT PLAN | 2022–2023

The Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations (AIE) conducts independent oversight of an expansive set of programs and operations in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The DOI has a remarkably broad portfolio; its more than 60,000 employees are responsible for millions of acres of public lands throughout the country, billions of dollars in acquisitions and royalty collection, and energy production. The DOI also has far-reaching and profoundly important obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives and for coordinating Federal policy as well as providing technical and financial assistance to the Insular Areas. Our oversight responsibilities are, as a result, equally broad.

### Prioritizing Work That Can Lead to Positive Change

The DOI's responsibilities, and consequently our oversight portfolio, carry significant stakes for the public. We want our work to have a positive impact on the DOI's ability to address the needs of vulnerable populations, conserve land and water, collect revenue owed for the use of Government resources, and ensure access to and safety on public lands.

AIE comprises approximately 100 auditors and evaluators. We follow a risk-based, tiered approach to best focus our limited resources. We considered 1) the DOI's three major management challenges as we have defined them, which are managing spending, delivering core services, and ensuring health and safety; 2) the potential impacts of other unaddressed challenges; and 3) additional factors such as stakeholder priorities, prior work, and emerging threats or vulnerabilities. Using this information, we arrived at nine focus areas for AIE work initiated in fiscal year 2022: climate change, energy management, financial management, infrastructure, IT security, public safety and disaster response, responsibility to Native communities, water programs, and workplace culture and human capital. Our work also includes mandatory reviews.

## Focus Areas



Climate Change



Infrastructure\*



Responsibility to  
Native Communities



Energy Management



IT Security



Water Programs



Financial Management



Public Safety and  
Disaster Response



Workplace Culture  
and Human Capital

\*"Infrastructure" includes projects funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), and other sources.

### DOI Bureaus and Select DOI Offices

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) • Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) • Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) • Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
• Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) • Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) • Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) • National  
Park Service (NPS) • Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) • Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) • Office of the Secretary (OS)  
• Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE) • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) • U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)



# Oversight Plan

## Initial Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Oversight Efforts



Our initial IIJA oversight efforts will include a series of flash reports. We will focus on new programs without established practices and others with a history of longstanding challenges; high-dollar income streams, which inherently pose a high risk of fraud and mismanagement; historically weak oversight of subrecipients; and risks associated with expedited awards.

These flash reports will focus on the funds provided by the IIJA for the following:

**Orphaned Wells:** \$4.7 billion to reclaim and plug orphaned wells to promote human and environmental health and safety.

**Abandoned Mines:** \$11.3 billion in new funding for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, including almost \$10.9 billion in grants to States and Tribes to eliminate dangerous conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining in coal-dependent communities.

**Water:** \$8.3 billion in new funding for western water infrastructure, which enables human and natural communities to remain resilient against persistent droughts while protecting water supplies and the natural environment.

**BIA Roads:** \$270 million for the BIA Road Maintenance Program, which supports tribal transportation and tribal transportation safety.

During fiscal year 2022, we plan on initiating discretionary reviews of the following:

### Tribal and Insular Areas Use of Funding Provided for Climate Adaptation Practices



At risk: \$216 million provided under the IIJA and \$13.8 million under the Tribal Climate Resilience Program to support tribal climate resilience, adaptation and community relocation planning • The design and implementation of projects to address the challenges facing tribal communities across the country

### Mitigation of Federal Risks Created by Mineral Leaseholders' Bankruptcies



At risk: Royalties from leases to develop energy and natural resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and onshore Federal and Indian lands • \$65 million in current liabilities for orphaned infrastructure that will need decommissioning • Up to \$2.3 billion in potential decommissioning liabilities on the OCS that were not covered by bonds

### Potential Construction Contract Cost Overruns



At risk: \$744 million in funding under the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) that is allocated for construction contracts managed by the BIE, BLM, FWS, and NPS • The DOI's ability to reduce deferred maintenance backlogs given cost overruns

### The BIE's Deferred Maintenance Prioritization Process



At risk: \$95 million provided under the GAOA annually from 2021 to 2025 for the BIE's maintenance backlog for education facilities and infrastructure • The safety and quality of education provided to Indian students



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- Unarmed Guard Labor Hour Service Contract for Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island**    
At risk: **\$43.9 million** over 5 years, funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and awarded under a labor-hour service contract
- CARES Act Funding Received by the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program**   
At risk: **\$55 million** in funding assistance provided under the CARES Act to support the Insular Areas' efforts to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19
- DOI's Implementation of Enterprise Risk Management**    
At risk: **Billions** in new funding for high-priority programs if effective identification and management of strategic and enterprise risks facing DOI is not implemented
- Indian Schools**    
At risk: The **health and education of students** enrolled in 183 tribally controlled schools and 53 BIE-operated Indian Schools • The **trust responsibility** of the Federal Government to Tribes
- Compliance With the Indian Small Business Requirement Under the Buy Indian Act**    
At risk: **\$53.6 million** expended under the Buy Indian Act to purchase supplies, services, and certain construction projects from qualified American Indian vendors
- Law Enforcement Accountability and Control Over Evidence**    
At risk: **Public and employee trust** in law enforcement
- The DOI's Preparedness To Respond to Wildland Fires**     
At risk: **535 million acres** of public land at risk of wildland fires • **\$355 million** in annual appropriations, **\$327 million** in supplemental wildfire funds, and **\$3.3 billion** over 5 years under the IJA • **Environmental and public safety**





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## The DOI's Public Cloud Computing Security Practices

At risk: **Over 100 cloud-based systems** hosted by more than a dozen cloud service providers • Bureau operations and **sensitive data**



## Ransomware Readiness

At risk: **DOI cyber systems** because of the increasing efficacy of ransomware attacks • **Disruption** of operations • **Compromise** of Government and personal data and information



## USGS Controls To Ensure Scientific Integrity in Its Laboratories

At risk: **The USGS' reputation and credibility** of its scientific work • **Scientific integrity and safety of data**



## Central Valley Project Cost Allocation and Repayment

At risk: Up to **\$3 billion** of Federal investment in irrigation and municipal and industrial facilities



## The El Vado Seepage Reduction Modification Project Contract

At risk: Up to **\$31.5 million** to address critical maintenance needs of the El Vado Dam in New Mexico • **Public safety of residences** located near the dam



## The DOI's Policy To Address Nonfinancial Conflicts of Interest

At Risk: The **DOI's integrity** of research, national security, and economic security when foreign influence and other conflicts are not disclosed



## The BLM's Administration of Renewable Energy Activities

At risk: **\$425 million** annually from 2021 to 2025 for research and development activities to enhance the production of wind and solar energy on public land • **Public trust** in the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of BLM's processes to review applications and grant rights of way





# Mandatory and Requested Activities

In addition to our discretionary work, we will also perform the following mandatory activities.

## Oversee audits of:

- DOI Financial Statements
- Financial Statements of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration
- Federal Information Security Modernization Act
- FWS Administrative Costs Incurred To Manage Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR)

## Conduct audits, inspections, or evaluations of:

- Geospatial Data Act
- Payment Integrity Information Act (improper payments)
- Emergency Supplemental Funding (such as disaster recovery, pandemic response)
- Indian Detention Centers
- Grants Awarded by the FWS' WSFR Program (10 audits in 9 States)

## Review and prepare information related to:

- Statement on DOI Major Management and Performance Challenges
- DOI Implementation of Government Charge Card Recommendations
- Single Audit Oversight

